

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: BRPO11 (BRMAIL)

CC:

SUBJECT: NEW US AMB TAO SWITZERLLAND  
PRIORITY:  
ATTACHMENTS:

b6  
b7C

DATE: 1993-10-26  
TIME: 15:40

[REDACTED]  
RE YOUR EMAIL DTD 10-22 CAPTIONED ABOVE. [REDACTED] OF THE DOMESTIC  
LIASON UNIT ADVISED THAT ACCORDING TO USDS AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE HAS BEEN  
"NAMED" AS AMBASSADOR; HOWEVER, DLU HAS SEEN NOTHING REGARDING HIS  
NOMINATION. WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED.

REGARDS  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

T 11/15

80-5-261

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 7 1993	

19

TO: OLIA - FLU1 (EUROPE & CANADA)

b7E DATE: 11-02-93  
TIME: 16:40

CC:  
SUBJECT: NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND  
PRIORITY: R  
ATTACHMENTS:

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ATTN: SSA

b6  
b7C

RE UR E-MAIL MSG 10/26/93.

AT COUNTRY TEAM MEETING TODAY, THEY MENTIONED THAT AMBASSADOR-ELECT LAWRENCE WILL HAVE HIS HEARINGS ON 11/8/93, AND ONCE CONFIRMED, WILL PROBABLY DEPART IMMEDIATELY FOR SWITZERLAND.

AGAIN, WHAT ARE WE DOING TO GIVE HIM (AND POSSIBLY WIFE - SEE MY PREVIOUS E-MAIL) BRIEFINGS AT FBIHQ? WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

CAN SOMEONE PLEASE CHECK THIS AND ADVISE.

THANKS AND BEST REGARDS,

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b7C  
=====



b6  
b7C

80-5-261A

11/2

AV

12

FROM: [REDACTED]

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b7C  
b7E

TO: BRPO11 (BRMAIL)

DATE: 1993-11-02  
TIME: 11:44

CC:

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF M. LARRY LAWRENCE AMB SWIT  
PRIORITY:  
ATTACHMENTS:

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FYI M. LARRY LAWRENCE OF CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND. AS MORE INFORMATION DEVELOPS, WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED. THE DOM LIAISON UNIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROTOCOL AFFAIRS UNIT WILL ACT TO GET HIM BRIEFED AT FBIHQ FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION AND DEPARTURE FOR SWITZERLAND.

REGARDS.

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: BRPO11 (BRMAIL)

CC:

SUBJECT: NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

PRIORITY:

ATTACHMENTS:

b6

b7C

b7E DATE: 1993-11-03

TIME: 18:01

[REDACTED]

I GUESS MY E-MAIL MESSAGE DATED 11/02 ADVISING YOU OF THE NOMINATION  
CROSSED YOURS. LET ME PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE. USDS DESK OFFICER FOR BERN,  
[REDACTED] CONFIRMED LATE TODAY THAT AMBASSADOR NOMINEE LAWRENCE IS WILLING  
AND EAGER FOR FBI BRIEFINGS. DLU AND PAS ARE SETTING UP BRIEFINGS HERE AT  
FBIHQ. WE LEARNED THAT USDS HOPES TO HAVE HIM CONFIRMED SOON AND POSSIBLY IN  
PLACE BY THANKSGIVING. USDS [REDACTED] WILL CALL US BACK TO ADVISE WHEN  
CONFIRMATION HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE, POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK. THEN BLOCKS OF  
TIME FOR BRIEFINGS WILL BE ALLOTTED TO AGENCIES TO INCLUDE THE FBI. IN  
ANTICIPATION OF THIS BRIEFING IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU SUBMIT TALKING POINTS  
DIRECTLY TO THE PROTOCOL AFFAIRS SUBUNIT, FLU I WHO WILL BE COORDINATING THIS  
BRIEFING.

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b7C

REGARDS,

[REDACTED]

b6

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20-5 - 261C

AV AV

TO: [REDACTED]  
CC:  
SUBJECT: NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND  
PRIORITY: R  
ATTACHMENTS:

b7E DATE: 11-05-93  
TIME: 16:14

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RE OUR PREVIOUS E-MAIL MESSAGES AND E-MAIL MSG OF SSA [REDACTED] b6  
DATED 11/3/93, CONCERNING BRIEFING OF NEW AMBASSADOR. 11/3/93, REQUESTED b7C  
"TALKING POINTS" FOR BRIEFINGS.

I HAVE NO SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS, AND SUGGEST THE GENERAL BRIEFING  
REGARDING THE DUTIES, ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LEGAL ATTACHE. THE HISTORY  
OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF OLIA.

A SHORT OVER-ALL BRIEFING ON LEGAT BERN, I.E. WE'VE BEEN IN BERN OVER 30  
YEARS; 2 AGENTS AND TWO SUPPORT; COVER SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN; MOSTLY  
WCC/OC PROGRAM WORK; AVERAGING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOO MUCH WORK FOR TWO PEOPLE (LAY GROUND WORK FOR  
POSSIBLE FUTURE ENHANCEMENT); "GOOD" WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMBASSY  
STAFF; [REDACTED]

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b7D  
b7E

[REDACTED] WORK VERY  
CLOSELY WITH OIA, USDOJ AND DO A LOT WITH THEM UNDER THE U.S./SWISS MLAT,  
SIGNED 1977 AND THE FIRST U.S. MLAT; ALSO STRESS THAT ALTHOUGH WE WORK FOR  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI, WE ALSO REALIZE THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY  
STAFF, WE ALSO WORK FOR THE AMBASSADOR, THUS WE GIVE A LOT OF  
SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE TO THE EMBASSY AND KEEP THE AMBASSADOR CURRENT ON  
PERTINENT MATTERS: [REDACTED]

b7E

ALSO SEE MY PREVIOUS E-MAIL MSG RE MRS. LAWRENCE. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY,  
SHE IS PARTICIPATING IN MANY OF THE BRIEFINGS. SHE'S VERY ACTIVE [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MIGHT WANT TO INVITE HER FOR A VIP TOUR AND SHOOT.

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ALSO STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU INCLUDE SSA [REDACTED] IN BRIEFING, ETC.  
SINCE HE SERVED IN BERN 6 YEARS.

IF YOU NEED ANY MORE, PLEASE CALL, BUT I WOULD SUSPECT THAT HIS TIME AT  
FBIHQ WILL BE LIMITED AND ABOVE SHOULD COVER IT.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

BEST REGARDS, [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C



80-5-261D

AV  
11/5 19  
b6  
b7C

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: BRPO11 (BRMAIL)

CC:

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NEW AMBASSADOR TO FBIHQ, 11/16

PRIORITY:

ATTACHMENTS:

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b7E

DATE: 1993-11-09  
TIME: 09:11

MR. [REDACTED]

IN REFERENCE COMMUNICATION FROM MR. [REDACTED] TO OLIA DATED 7/30/93, REGARDING THE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO BERN'S VISIT TO FBIHQ. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE COME ABOUT REGARDING THIS MATTER. MR. LAWRENCE, THE NEW AMBASSADOR-DESIGANTE TO BERN, WILL BE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR ON TUESDAY, 11/16, AT 11:00 P.M. PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR, MR. LAWRENCE WILL BE RECEIVING BRIEFINGS FROM CID AND THE NATIONAL SEVURITY DIVISION.

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I AM WRITING TO SEE IF YOU CAN PROVIDE CURRENT TALKING POINT ISSUES FOR THE DIRECTOR, PRIOR TO MEETING WITH MR. LAWRENCE.

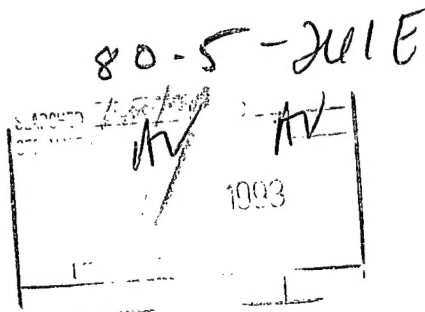
IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL CHECK WITH MR. [REDACTED] AND THE OTHER DIVISIONS TO SEE IF THEY CAN PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION FOR THE DIRECTOR.

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b7C

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ON THIS MATTER.

REGARDS.

[REDACTED]  
OLIA/PAS



TO: OLIA -PROTOCOL AFFAIRS SUBUNIT [REDACTED]

b7E

DATE: 11-10-93  
TIME: 12:35

CC:  
SUBJECT: nNEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND (LAW  
PRIORITY: R  
ATTACHMENTS:

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ATTN: [REDACTED] ACTION

REURMSG 11/9/93. PLS SEE MY MSG 11/5/93, IN RESPONSE TO [REDACTED] MSG 11/3/93. b6 b7C

IF YOU CAN'T FIND, PLEASE CALL.

IF THIS DOESN'T SUFFICE, PLS. CALL.

[REDACTED]

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80-5-201F

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
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11/10

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## U.S. Information Service

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Bern

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### News Report      November 11-12, 1993

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Chargé

Col.

Ms.

Mr.

Mr.

Ms.

Mr.

Mr.

Ms.

Mr.

Mr.

SSgt.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

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b7C

✓ **Criticism about the U.S. Ambassador:** The nomination of the U.S. Ambassador to Bern met with criticism in Washington, D.C. The chairman of the Foreign Service Association in the State Department, Tex Harris, explained that with the 66-year old Larry Lawrence - one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. - a political contributor and not a career diplomat, has received an ambassadorship.

On the occasion of Senate confirmation hearings for various new Ambassadors, Harris, the chairman of an association consisting of 11,000 members, criticized the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. Harris emphasized that the nomination of political appointees is "one of the last relicts of an archaic 19th century." In a "complex, revolutionary and dangerous world" the only superpower feels it can afford to send ambassadors with "little knowledge and experience."

Lawrence stated during the Senate's Foreign

Political Commission hearing that during his 45-year business career he has often conducted negotiations with Swiss companies and banks and has made friends and contacts. He added that he will devote himself to promoting U.S. commercial interests in Switzerland.

With regard to the situation of his host country, Lawrence - a close friend of Bill Clinton - stated that it is an exciting time to go to Switzerland since "Switzerland is at a crossroad, debating the efficacy of EC membership and the meaning of neutrality in a post-Cold war Europe moving toward integration.

Lawrence - who owns among others the luxury hotel "Del Coronado" in San Diego and has more than 300 million dollars - added that "in order to facilitate communication, he has begun French language studies."

(Article by Washington correspondent Thomas Ruest, TAGES-ANZEIGER, 11/12)

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**Resistance against the U.S. Ambassador in Bern:** There is resistance in the U.S. against the U.S. Ambassador-designate to Switzerland. Career diplomats put pressure on the Senate not to confirm the real-estate magnate from California.

There was a stir in the Senate Foreign Political Committee - which is conducting hearings with the ambassadorial candidates - prior to Senate confirmation. Even though the U.S. practice to give ambassadorships to businessmen in gratitude for their contribution to the election campaign has been controversial, career diplomats have never gone to the barricades about it. According to Tex Harris, President of the American Foreign Service Association, it is time for a warning to others. According to Harris, Larry Lawrence is a classical example of the "archaic spoils-system of the 19th century."

Businessman and election campaign supporter Larry Lawrence is not only a successful businessman but also a leading power in the Jewish community and a generous election campaign supporter of the Democratic Party. In 1992, he supported the Democrats with approximately 21,000 dollars - since 1987 with more than 80,000 dollars. According to election campaign authorities, illegalities have occurred and the legal limits have been exceeded. Lawrence, who also has problems with the tax authorities, defended the violations as "bookkeeping errors."

The main figure in the Democrats' Southern California Democratic "money machine" is the young wife of the 67-year old real-estate businessman and banker.

According to Dennis Kux, the President of the Senior Foreign Service Association, Lawrence is a "pillar of the society" in San Diego but he neither speaks a foreign language nor has he experience in foreign policy. During the Senate's Committee's hearing, he answered a simple question about export control measures with explanations on export promotion, which shows his carelessness.

Nevertheless, most senators who conducted the hearings with Lawrence and the career diplomats rejected the criticism. Dianne Feinstein from California stated that Lawrence is a philanthropist and businessman. She added that "businessmen are respected in Switzerland." Harris Wofford from Pennsylvania stated that Lawrence is a creative, thoughtful and responsible man.

Lawrence defended himself during the hearings of the Senate committee with the statement that he managed 58 companies, that he knows Switzerland from his 25 business trips and that he has started French language studies. Lawrence did not push for the ambassadorship. The Clinton administration asked him and Lawrence was initially interested in Austria or Spain. It has been a tradition that the post in Bern is not given to a career diplomat.  
(BERNER ZEITUNG, 11/12)

**Test with heroin:** Even before the test with controlled drug release has begun, four important projects threaten to fail in the canton of Bern. One reason for the situation is the high costs. In January, the cantonal parliament will have to decide about the credit of SFr. 5 million. If a referendum is submitted, the voters would have the final say. There are similar problems in other cantons.  
(TAGES-ANZEIGER, 11/12)

**A lot of skepticism about the Swiss UN blue helmets:** Should Switzerland provide the UN with armed blue helmets? If the vote took place today, the result might be a "No." Especially left-wing individuals reject the proposal. On the other hand, a new vote on EEA membership would almost certainly lead to a "Yes." These conclusions can be drawn from the opinion poll series "European barometer Switzerland," which was published on Thursday.  
(TAGES-ANZEIGER, 11/12)

**The Sanctions That Kill:** America will not put at risk in Haiti the life of any GI, promised President Clinton. American public opinion in fact would not tolerate that. What it tolerates though, without any apparent scruple is the embargo, and the other sanctions that will kill thousands of Haitian children every month. That is what a report published this week by Harvard University shows... Is Aristide's return worth so much?

In Washington, all pretend that bringing back the exiled President -- whom the CIA and some other organizations described as not trustworthy -- will restore democracy in Haiti... a country that has only known forceful, corrupted regimes...

The Harvard University's report did not stir any emotions. Few Americans are eager to imagine the horrible circumstances in which three thousand children every month die of starvation while GIs wait, in the shelter of their ships, until Haiti falls like a ripe fruit into the democratic basket. The White House's only reaction was to cast doubt on the figures given by the report. As if two hundred dead children fewer would make such a big difference!

LE MATIN (Francis Evence - 11/11/93)

**Sixty Drug Traffickers Arrested:** The Zurich and Lucerne Cantonal Police broke two international drug trafficking rings and arrested about sixty people. In Zurich thirty people were arrested, 460 grams of heroin were confiscated as well as SFr. 20,000. Among those arrested were 19 Albanians, 9 Swiss citizens, one German and one Portuguese. The youngest of them was only 14. Over 30 people were arrested in Lucerne and 1,1 kg. of cocaine confiscated. The leader of the ring was an Albanian who has been living in Switzerland for several years. There were also people from ex-Yugoslavia and two Polish citizens.

LA TRIBUNE DE GENEVE (11/11/93)

**Valais Priests' Salaries Will Not be Increased:** Valais government wanted to increase priests' salaries by 40-50% next year. The move has now been blocked by the minority in parliament, the FDP, whose example was quickly followed by the Socialists and the CVP. The priests will have to do with their present salary.

LE NOUVEAU QUOTIDIEN (11/12/93)

✓ **The Swiss Army Ready to Protect Foreign**

**Embassies:** Discussions are under way between Bern police and the Federal Military Department concerning the protection of foreign embassies. The Bern police is beleaguered by the task and wishes to have support from the army. The army is, in principle, willing to help. Daniel Eckmann, Information Chief at the Military Department, said that such an operation would be politically sustainable, although it would have to be conducted under very strict guidelines.

LE NOUVEAU QUOTIDIEN (11/12/93)

**The 'Statu Quo' Dictatorship:** The spirit of decision making does not seem to be in vogue, either in the private or public sectors. Be the workers of companies such as Volvo, Renault or Swissair, in face of the merging of their companies, the French or American political sectors on GATT or NAFTA, or European public opinion on the European construction, one cannot help seeing but a come and go of hesitations, skepticism, setbacks.

And Switzerland, which is traditionally the object of all kinds of gibes for its slowness to take any decision, seems to have found a great number of imitators...

Among the reasons for the deadlock we have to mention the strong lack of trust that leaders often inspire... If this lack of trust is the result of their loose behavior... it shows, above all, the anxiety about the future which seems to be a common trait to the populations of industrialized countries at the end of this century...

The present state of the economies of industrialized countries nourishes such fears and is about to promote in public opinion a sort of 'status quo culture', a bit like the poverty culture in Third World countries, which discourages all action.

The will to do anything necessary to preserve what has been obtained, although understandable, is, nevertheless, evil. It contributes to block all mechanisms by which economic growth could resume and restore economic confidence to consumers and investors. It corresponds perfectly to the definition of a vicious circle.

LE JOURNAL DE GENEVE (Pascal Carcin - 11/12/93)

**Threats on Labor Peace:** Labor peace, a key Swiss value, is being threatened today. The

Swiss social climate is losing balance. Social partners hide behind their ideological strongholds and, in some sectors the worse hurt by unemployment, negotiations to obtain cost of living increases are tough. There are threats of strikes everywhere. One thing is certain: a suspension of the dialogue would only have negative consequences and severely weaken the economy.

24 HEURES (11/12/93)

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 11/17/93

FROM: Director, FBI (62A-HQ-1034296-268-BR)

TO: LEGAT, Bern

VISIT OF M. LARRY LAWRENCE,  
U.S. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO SWITZERLAND,  
TO FBIHQ ON 11/16/93;  
FLM - SWITZERLAND

Ambassador Lawrence visited FBIHQ as scheduled and was accompanied by his wife, [REDACTED]

Ambassador and Mrs. Lawrence paid a courtesy call on Director Freeh. Participants included Mr. [REDACTED] OLIA.

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Prior to the courtesy meeting Ambassador Lawrence received the following briefings from the Criminal Investigative Division:

Assistant Section Chief [REDACTED] provided a brief overview of the FBI's Organized Crime Program. Mr. [REDACTED] discussed the criminal impact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He mentioned that the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised the ambassador of the increase cooperation [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Furthermore, Mr. [REDACTED] mentioned the impact [REDACTED] The ambassador questioned the [REDACTED]

1 - Legat, Bern

*n/p 11/17/93 for info*  
*2K*

80-5-2614

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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LEGAL ATTACHE - BERN	

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Airtel to Legat, Bern

RE: Visit of M. Larry Lawrence,  
U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Switzerland,  
to FBIHQ on 11/16/93;  
FLM - Switzerland

Thereafter, SSA [redacted] provided an overview of  
the money laundering violations [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. [redacted]  
discussed the Financial Crimes Task Force concept and the  
cooperation of investigating money laundering violations with the  
international law enforcement community. He further reported on  
the advantages and disadvantages of the reporting procedures of  
suspicious money transactions by the banking community to the law  
enforcement agencies. Furthermore, Mr. [redacted] afforded the  
ambassador a briefing on the policy of international sharing of  
seized assets under the asset forfeiture laws in money  
laundering.

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Mr. [redacted] provided a brief overview of the  
FBI's White-Collar Program. He discussed the international  
initiatives to combat white-collar crimes and mentioned the  
increase fraud activity in Switzerland.

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Afterwards, Assistant Section Chief [redacted]  
National Security Division, provided a briefing on the National  
Security Threat List Program to Ambassador Lawrence.

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For information purposes, Mr. [redacted] OLIA,  
also participated in the briefings and provided insight on the  
current criminal situation in Switzerland [redacted]  
[redacted]

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UNCLASSIFIED

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## Facsimile Cover Sheet

*Office of Central European Affairs (EUR/CE)*

*Facsimile Number: (202)647-5117*

To:

Date:

11/10

Telephone #:

fax

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8-011-41-31-3577-37

Organization:

From:

Telephone #:

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Organization:

Room #:

Total Pages (including cover sheet):

3

Subject:

Amn - desig's opening statement

Comments:

as prepared for delivery  
embargoed until delivery  
(expected at ~11:30 EDT)

UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO SWITZERLAND  
M. LARRY LAWRENCE  
BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 10, 1993

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee --

I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Switzerland.

Through consultations over the past several months with officials from various government agencies, I have diligently learned about the issues important to our bilateral relationship with Switzerland. If confirmed, I pledge to accurately represent U.S. Government positions on key foreign policy issues to the Swiss Government.

Switzerland's global economic and political orientation make it an important partner of the United States. The U.S. Ambassador in Bern can support our national foreign policy by working closely with the Swiss Government in such areas as liberalization of the world trading regime, non-proliferation, measures to combat international money laundering and other criminal activity, humanitarian and refugee policy, and assistance for the Middle East peace process.

This is an exciting and important time to be in Switzerland. Switzerland is at a crossroads, debating the efficacy of EC membership and the meaning of neutrality in a post-Cold War Europe moving towards integration.

There are great economic opportunities for us right now in Switzerland. While Switzerland is already a substantial market for U.S. goods and services, I think that we can do even better. I intend, if confirmed, to devote a great deal of my efforts to promoting U.S. commercial interests -- to increase the two-way trade and investment flows now taking place -- with the goal of securing high-end American jobs.

If confirmed, I hope to apply my experience in business, government, and civic service as well as familiarity with Switzerland to the role of U.S. Ambassador in Bern. During my 45-year business career, I have conducted negotiations with many Swiss business and banking leaders. In the process I have made friends and contacts there which I hope will benefit the Embassy's work. In order to facilitate communication, I have also recently begun French language studies. I previously gained a grounding in working within interagency structures during my service to federal, state, and local government bodies, including as Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, participant on the California Senate Advisory Commission on Cost Control in State Government, and chair of the San Diego County Economic Advisory Commission.

In sum, with your approval, I hope to put my managerial and government experience to good use to direct the efforts of the Embassy country team in managing our complex political relationship as post-Cold War Europe evolves, in promoting U.S. trade and investment, and not least, in providing consular services to the 25,000 Americans resident in Switzerland and to the large number of American tourists.

I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have and I thank you, the distinguished members of the Committee, the President, and the Secretary of State for this opportunity.



BERN 00119

DISTRIBUTION: AMBX  
CHARGE: PROG  
APPROVED: CHG:   
DRAFTED: EXEC:   
CLEARED: NONE

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: AMGT, APER, SZ  
SUBJECT: POST MGT: PASSING OF AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE

AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE PASSED AWAY IN THE COMPANY OF HIS WIFE, MRS. [REDACTED] LAWRENCE, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, AT HIS RESIDENCE IN BERN, AFTER A LONG ILLNESS. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE TAKEN TO HIS HOME STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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[illegible]

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**To:** All Embassy Section Heads

**From:**

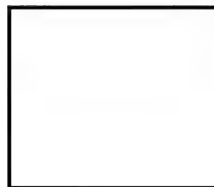
**Subject:** Press Release on Ambassador Lawrence's Death

**Date:** January 10, 1996

# MEMORANDUM

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Today's press release contained a typo. Please discard original and use this substitute for your purposes.



80-5-261K


SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 11 1996	
LEGAL ATTACHE	

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Open Letter to the People of Switzerland and their Medical Professionals

On January 9, 1996, M. Larry Lawrence, my husband and the American Ambassador to Switzerland passed away in our residence in Bern after a long and difficult illness. Ever since our arrival in this majestic and beautiful country he battled with this enemy in his typically courageous and determined way. During these past two years, he was surrounded by the warm, welcoming, and understanding people of Switzerland, and had at his side a brilliant and wonderful Swiss medical team. The quality and warmth of the care he received was so overwhelming and so exceptional that I am compelled to thank everyone in this public and deeply appreciative way.

From the doctors and nurses at Inselspital in Bern to physicians in Geneva and other parts of Switzerland we, as guests in this country, were treated with a kindness and dedication that can only be called extraordinary. As I depart together with my husband from Switzerland for the last time, I wish to express my enduring gratitude to the world-class medical professionals, the government, and finally the people of Switzerland for all the care and kindness they have bestowed on us. God bless you all!

 Lawrence  
Wife of M. Larry Lawrence  
American Ambassador to Switzerland

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# PRESS RELEASE

## **United States Information Service**

*Embassy of the United States of America  
Postfach 3001 Bern Tel. (031) 357 72 38 Fax: (031) 357 73 79*

January 10, 1996

### **DEATH OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND M. LARRY LAWRENCE**

The Honorable M. Larry Lawrence, United States Ambassador to Switzerland, died at his residence in Bern on Tuesday, January 9, 1996, after a long illness. Ambassador Lawrence passed away in the arms of his loving wife and partner Shelia Davis Lawrence with other members of their families present. He is survived by his wife, his three children, and six grandchildren.

Memorial services will be conducted on Monday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, California. Burial arrangements are pending. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that contributions be made to two scholarship programs for minority women at the University of Arizona: the M. Larry Lawrence Graduate Fellowship and the M. Larry Lawrence Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Minority Women. These two programs were established by Ambassador Lawrence based on his belief that the best weapon for fighting poverty in America is the education of minority women. For further information regarding contributions call (619) 522-8100.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☒ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ ~~TOP SECRET~~  
☐ ~~SECRET~~  
☐ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☒ UNCLAS

Date 1/10/96

FM LEGAT BERN (80-5)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //5550:BR003W.010//

PASS: CID:IRS, MR b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: DEATH OF U S AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND M LARRY  
LAWRENCE.

ON TUESDAY, 1/9/96, THE HONORABLE M. LARRY LAWRENCE,  
 UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE  
 IN BERN AFTER A LONG ILLNESS. AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE PASSED AWAY  
 SURROUNDED BY HIS WIFE  AND OTHER MEMBERS  
 OF THEIR FAMILIES PRESENT. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, HIS

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THREE CHILDREN, AND SIX GRANDCHILDREN.

Approved: Original filename: BER003W.010

Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Telprep filename: BER003S0.010

MRI/JULIAN DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ISN: \_\_\_\_\_

FOX DATE &amp; TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

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80-5-2614  
 SEARCHED  
 SERIALIZED  
 INDEXED  
 FILED  
 JAN 10 1996  
 FBI - BERN  
 [Signature]

*copy of letter to [redacted] 1/10/96*  
*sent 1/10/96*

^PAGE 2 BR 80-5 UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORIAL SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED ON MONDAY, 1/15/96,  
AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO IN CORONADO,  
CALIFORNIA. BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE PENDING.

AT 5:00 P.M. TODAY, ALL EMBASSY BERN STAFF PERSONNEL ARE  
INVITED TO EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO MRS. LAWRENCE AND FAMILY AT  
THE RESIDENCE. LEGAT BERN WILL BE REPRESENTED BY PERSONNEL  
FROM THE OFFICE.

ON THURSDAY, 1/11/96, ALL SECTIONS HEADS FROM EMBASSY  
BERN WILL ACCOMPANY THE BODY OF THE AMBASSADOR TO ZURICH  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE AMBASSADOR'S FAMILY WILL ACCOMPANY  
THE BODY TO THE UNITED STATES. INASMUCH AS LEGAL ATTACHE

[REDACTED] IS ON ANNUAL LEAVE, ASSISTANT LEGAL  
ATTACHE [REDACTED] WILL REPRESENT LEGAT BERN.

b6  
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EMBASSY BERN DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ADVISED THAT ALL  
OFFICIAL LETTERS OF CONDOLENCES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS  
FOLLOWS: MRS. [REDACTED] LAWRENCE, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED  
STATES, JUBILAEUMSTRASSE 93, 3005 BERN, SWITZERLAND.

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THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE  
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN BERN IS AS FOLLOWS: [REDACTED]

b6  
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[REDACTED]

^PAGE 3 BR 80-5 UNCLASSIFIED

BT

TO: IRB - DEPUTY DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

b7E

DATE: 01-10-96  
TIME: 16:04

CC:  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF U S AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND  
PRIORITY: R  
ATTACHMENTS:

-----  
Mr. [REDACTED]:

As you were advised by SIOC, Ambassador M. Larry Lawrence passed away yesterday 1/9/96 at the Residence in Bern after a long illness. The Deputy Chief of Mission, [REDACTED] told us a few days ago that Lawrence was gravely ill and that complications have set in from disease of the blood. Although no official statement was made as to the specific disease, various people at the Embassy have mentioned that it was a form of leukemia. The disease affected other systems of his body according to the DCM, and in particular, his cardiovascular system. If more information is released as to the specific cause of death you will be advised.

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At the Country Team meeting today, DCM [REDACTED] invited all Embassy staff to the Residence to offer condolences to his wife, [REDACTED] and the other members of his family. [REDACTED] and I will go to the Residence at 5:00 p.m. as requested by the DCM. [REDACTED] is in California trying to get a flight back to Switzerland from her annual leave. Yesterday was in the 80's in California while the blizzard in your area is shutting everything down.

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Tomorrow, DCM [REDACTED] wants all Country Team representatives to accompany the casket to Zurich/Kloten. The Lawrence family will leave with the body on a Swiss Air flight to the U.S. I will represent this office joining other Country Team members. Plans are currently being made to have the burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

b6  
b7C

I have sent a teletype to FBIHQ with your name in the Pass Line for official notification of the Ambassador's passing.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
b6  
b7C

Copy forwarded to

[REDACTED] 1/10/96  
N

[REDACTED] - 1/11/96  
Passenger's list

[REDACTED] will  
send condolence letter  
Fed. Ex. 26

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b7C

[REDACTED]  
50-5-261 M

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED  
JAN 10 1996  
FBI - BOSTON



## MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

10/01/96 19:01  
ID=LEGAT BERN

DATE	TIME	EX-TR-IME	DISTANT STATION ID	MODE	PAGES	RESULT
10-01	18:58	02:31"	302 324 1096	ECN-S	04	OK 0000

*confirmation*  
*X*

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M 1058